

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting, August 22, 2000

Present: Commissioners -

Sue Cone, Village of Calumet Commission Nominee
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Rev. Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service -

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Brian Hoduski, KNHP Park Ranger
Rodney Larsen, KNHP Administrative Officer

Absent: Paul Lehto, Commissioner, Calumet Township

Recording Secretary: Lisa Dwyer

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, August 22, 2000, at 9:00 A.M. in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters. Larry Lankton was appointed as chair of the meeting in the absence of the regular chair, Paul Lehto.

Introductions

Frank Fiala introduced Dennis Borst of the Houghton County Historical Museum Society, Jim Boyce, former Houghton County Commissioner, Amy Wisti of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak's office, and Dan Sullivan of the Daily Mining Gazette.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the June 13, 2000 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala reported that Fritz Rushlow, the park's new exhibit restoration specialist, is officially in residence. A new KNHP architect has been hired. He is John Rosemurgy. Abby Sue Fisher, newly hired park staff member, who will direct work in the museum, research, and archival areas, will be arriving at the end of September.

"Boomin' Copper" the park's interpretive play had an average of 176 people in the audience per performance during its six week run held on Tuesday evenings this summer,

according to Fiala. About 125 of those folks were walk-ups and there were 285 people in the audience for the last performance.

Heritage Days held on Saturday, July 1, 2000, at Agassiz Park was a big success with many people in attendance. Fiala said the plans are to make it a "bigger and better" activity next year. The concert held in the evening to culminate Heritage Days was a sell-out. (The Pine Mountain Music Festival Symphony Orchestra and the folk ensemble, White Water, performed at the Calumet Theater.)

The CLK High School reunion was held July 21 & 22. The park conducted eight oral histories during that time.

A staff member of the State Historic Preservation Office responsible for the state's new historic preservation tax incentive program gave a briefing on June 21st. There were 10 people in attendance

Copies of the completed mine workers' housing survey report compiled by Lynn Bjorkman were distributed. Fiala praised Bjorkman for the excellent job she did on the report.

Fiala said that last fall he had talked about having a series of posters produced depicting historic buildings that the park would display. The first in the series is complete. The plans are to do about six posters of the same theme and then move on to do six more posters with a new theme, and continue with the process.

John Haro, retired architect, is working on a design concept plan for the Quincy Smelter. The park is taking a new look at how to use the Quincy Smelter such as using it as a National Park Service Visitor's Center for both KNHP and Isle Royale National Park. Haro is also working on schematics for the drill shop, which is located behind the Calumet High School and now the property of Calumet Township. A local curling club is interested in renovating the building for its use. The park has engaged a structural engineer to assess what repairs need to be done on the Fireman's Museum. Stabilization work will be done on the Union building this fall. Any further rehabilitation work on the Union building will have to wait until the FY2002 park budget is in effect.

Fiala said that the park is re-evaluating the purchase of 26 acres on Quincy Hill and the C&H Administration Building in Calumet. Fiala is still awaiting the appraisals on the Library Building, the Rowe Building in Calumet and the Paymaster's Building on Quincy Hill and Osceola No. 13. Efforts are being made to put a preservation easement on Osceola No. 13 and the plan then is for the owner to donate the property to Calumet Township.

Fiala distributed copies of the draft of the Business Plan for KNHP compiled by Heather Cabrera and Steve Gagnon. The plan is 80% complete according to Fiala. There will be an opportunity for the Advisory Commission as well as some of the cooperating sites to have some input regarding the plan.

Kathryn Eckert asked why Central Mine location isn't listed as cooperating site in the Business Plan. Fiala said that since he has been at the park there has been a moratorium on inclusions of any more cooperating sites. He added that the relationship between the park and cooperating sites needs to be established in some sort of binding document before any other cooperating sites become a part of the park. Fiala said this should be a joint effort between the Advisory Commission and park to define the nomination process for listing cooperating sites. Eckert said she would go back through the park minutes to see if there is a reference regarding the Central Mine location becoming a cooperating site.

Fiala distributed a letter from Sandra Clark of the Michigan Historical Center. Clark has offered her services to the Advisory Commission and the park to convene a meeting in Lansing to advance the work of the park. He asked Kathryn Eckert to elaborate on Clark's proposal.

Reports and Comments from Commissioners

Eckert spoke of the proposal that she and Sandra Clark have put together to assist the park and the Advisory Commission in advancing the work of the park. The proposal recommends that a list of projects be created. Once the list is created, Eckert and Clark would plan a meeting to be held in Lansing inviting groups such as federal and state entities, private foundations such as HUD, MDOT, Rural Housing, the DNR, and Travel Michigan that might fund some of these projects. There should be park representation as well as Advisory Commission representation at the meeting in Lansing. Fiala noted that the commissioners would have travel money allotted from their budget for such a trip. Eckert suggested that the Advisory Commission and the park work together to create the list of projects as well as determine who to invite to attend the meeting in Lansing. Reverend Langseth moved that the Advisory Commission support the steps listed by Sandra Clark as a concept and seek to actively pursue accomplishment of them. The motions was seconded and passed unanimously. Fiala suggested that a letter be sent to Sandra Clark notifying her that the commissioners endorse her proposed plan. Nemacheck said that since this is an election year it would probably be more productive to wait until after the elections in November to organize a Lansing meeting. Amy Wisti added that holding this meeting sometime between November and January would better because the newly elected legislative people will have a little more time during that period than they will once the new year begins. Larry Lankton, Sue Cone, Paul Lehto, and Reverend Langseth will work with Fiala on the proposal.

Eckert reported that members of the Americana Foundation would be in the Keweenaw on August 24 & 25, 2000. The foundation members will be touring the area and visiting the Mary Chase Perry Stratton House in Hancock as well as the Keweenaw Heritage Center. Larry Lankton will speak to the group Wednesday evening and give them a brief history of the area. The National Trust meets in Los Angeles in October, according to Eckert. Eckert said she would be attending a Council of Michigan Foundations meeting where she hopes to get some good ideas on foundations that could help the Keweenaw with its work. The SHPO workshop meets in September on tax credits for Michigan homeowners. Eckert said she is also going to be one of the enhancement speakers on the

Conlon's Travel agency's Cruising the Great Lakes tour in September for University of Michigan alumni. She added that she would like to see a Great Lakes cruise ship make the Houghton area a port of call someday.

Reverend Langseth said he would like to commend Fiala's work on organizing "Boomin Copper," and Heritage Days. He also commended Fiala and the park service on the process and persistence that has taken place to prioritize park acquisitions. Langseth asked Fiala about the FY2001 park budget. Fiala explained that the projected increase in the budget is \$750,000 for park operating funds and, in addition, \$100,000 is allotted to the Advisory Commission for a total of \$850,000. Fiala said that the expectation is that all increases in the base-operating budget will be approved. He should know by October 1, 2000, and the money would be available as of that date.

Clyde Raasio reported that he and Fiala recently met with the Franklin and Quincy Water Authority to express their concern about damage done to the landscape due to the waterline construction at the Quincy Hill area. Assurances have been made that the roads and alleys will be restored as close to the original landscape as possible. Some restoration work has already begun. Fiala asked Larry Lankton if he would take a look at what has been done so far.

Tom Nemacheck reported that the state of Michigan's tourism conference would be held in mid October. Nemacheck added that because of pressure from the city of Detroit, the Travel Michigan budget has been affected whereby they have been mandated legislatively to take 25% of their budget or about 2 ½ million dollars and earmark it for cultural tourism promotion. Nemacheck noted that Travel Michigan has not awarded grants in several years, but it did award a grant recently and he is wondering if Travel Michigan is going to refocus on grant work again. He added that these are good reasons for someone from the park to attend the conference in order to learn more about the cultural tourism promotion as well as any grant programs. He said that the U.P. tourism conference is being held in Silver City, October 18, 2000.

Nemacheck asked who is responsible for the travel information system that broadcasts local information on the radio. Fiala said that the federal government licenses the broadcast station and the equipment is held by KNHP. Nemacheck suggested that the current park message being broadcast should be updated. Fiala said that he is aware that it needs updating. The technical staff who were scheduled to come to the area last June to assist Fiala with the travel information system update did not show up.

Sue Cone reported that there is some repair work being done on the Fire Hall Museum tower in Calumet. It is a cooperative effort between the Village of Calumet and the park. The village has received some bids on work to be done on the Calumet Theater and the town hall building. The bids range from \$4,000 to \$12,000. The village will have to take a close look at the bids to find out why there is such a big difference.

A grant was awarded for the brick paving on M203 in the amount of \$470,000. Road repair is badly needed on Sixth Street in Calumet according to Cone. She added that this would be a good project to put on the list for Sandra Clark.

Larry Lankton said that he feels his major contribution to the park effort is his research and writing about the area that helps to provide interpretive materials. He recently returned from doing some historical research in the New England area on Americans who came to the Copper Country. Lankton said he is working on a book about Daniel and Lucinda Brockway who migrated to the Lake Superior area in 1843. Lankton reported that Keweenaw Heritage Center has a new sidewalk in the front. The center has two grant applications outstanding; both are for exterior renovations. Lankton said he would be meeting with the Americana Foundation members who will be visiting the area this week. The foundation has issued grant money to support some Keweenaw Heritage Center projects. Lankton said that many people visited Keweenaw Heritage Center during Heritage Day activities. Holding events like Heritage Days really helps to get people into town to visit, he added.

Reports, Comments, and Questions from the Public

Amy Wisti said that she enjoyed the play "Boomin' Copper" and Heritage Days. She has looked at a copy of the Business Plan for the park. She said she was encouraged after reading it because it gives a good picture of when the park started, what has happened since then, and its look to the future.

Dennis Borst spoke on behalf on the Houghton County Historical Museum Society announcing that on September 10, 2000, the museum is having an open house. There will also be an organ recital on the same day at the First Congregational Church of Lake Linden. The organ at the church is the second oldest operational organ in the State of Michigan. The museum now has an operational steam engine. The museum hopes to make the steam engine an operational exhibit on the grounds of the museum. Borst also reported on the Hancock Pewabic House and Museum Society's plans to rehabilitate the Mary Chase Perry Stratton house that is the birthplace of the Mary Chase Perry Stratton, founder of Pewabic Pottery. The house will be restored to its original condition. Stratton's work will be displayed in the house with explanations of her pottery methods as well as the re-creation of her father's office. He was a local physician for the mines.

Reverend Langseth made a motion to celebrate not only the strong persistent actions of the park service, but also the magnificent efforts of our legislators in getting the funds for the on-going base budget and the building renovations. After discussion it was decided that not only should it be noted in the minutes, but that a letter would be drafted by Reverend Langseth and Paul Letho on behalf of the Advisory Commission commending the efforts of the legislators in their support of the park. Sue Cone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the KNHP Advisory Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, at 9:00 AM in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters. It was also decided that the first meeting date for the year 2001 would be Tuesday, January 23, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Lisa A. Dwyer
Departmental Coordinator
Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Phone: 906/487-2113
Fax: 906/487-2468